THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, under the Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme for bio-medical research, a number of research proposals are being developed. These proposals are in the priority diseases already identified under this programme, which include, poliomyelitis, viral hepatitis, diarrhoeal diseases, rabies and pertussis.

(c) These proposals, which have to be joint R&D projects of India and the USA are to be subjected to peer review by expert peer and also administrative clearance/ approvals within the Government of India, as well as in the USA before these can be taken up for implementation. It is expected that these procedural steps would be completed for some of the project-proposals, already under review, during the current financial year.

Vacancies in Rajya Sabha

2141. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies in the Rajya Sabha;

(b) since when these vacancies have occurred; and

(c) what steps have been taken to fill up these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) The number of vacancies at present is 5.

(b) The vacancies have existed as below:—

3 from April, 1988;

1 from October, 1988; and

1 from September, 1988.

(c) The vacancies which have existed since April and October, 1988, are to be filled by the elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. The question of filling 3 vacancies from the State of Punjab which arose from April, 1988 would arise after the constitution of the Legislative Assembly in Punjab. In respect of the single vacancy in so far as the State of Uttar Pradesh is concerned, the Election Commission has on 22-11-1988, notified the programme of bye-election setting out 13-12-1988 as the date for the poll, if necessary.

The remaining vacancy which has occurred in September, 1988 is to be filled by nomination to be made by the President under article 80(1) (a), read with clause (3) of that article. The mater is in process.

Completion of Narmada Project

2142. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for delay in completing the Narmada Project and by when it will be completed;

(b) what would be its approximate cost after completion; and

(c) whether the World Bank has provided any assistance; if so, the amount thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) The reference is presumably to the Sardar Sarovar Project which has been cleared for an estimated cost of Rs. 6406 crores by the Planning Commission during October, 1988. The Government of Gujarat have planned to complete the main components of the project in a period of 17 years with 1987-88 as the base year.

(c) World Bank is to provide an assistance of US $ 250 million through I.D.A. credit and a loan of US $ 200 million.

Sardar Sarovar Project

2143. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the main dam of the multi-purpose Sardar Sarovar Project is to be constructed across the river at Kevada in Brooch District of South Gujarat; and

(b) if so, whether it will affect the three States of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra and by when the construction work on this will start?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir. The dam is to be constructed across the River Narmada near Navagam village in Bharuch district of Gujarat.

(b) Yes, Sir. It will affect the three States of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra. However, while according investment clearance by the Planning Commission it was ensured that the project is formulated as per Narmada Water Development Tribunal's Award, which takes into account the inter-state aspects. The preliminary works like foundation excavation and treatment coffer dam, river diversion works etc. were taken up in 1978. The main dam works have gained momentum from 1987 onwards after environment clearance to the project.

High Level Steering Committee for Planning Industrial Exports

2144. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a high-level steering Committee for Planning industrial exports during Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, what are the main purpose of this Committee, how many memebrs are there and whether representations to all sections of different traders have been reported in the panel; and

(c) if so, by when the panel is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) In the context of the formulation of the Eighth Five Year Plan, the Planning Commission has set up a high level steering Committee on Industries for the Eighth Plan. The Steering Committee, in turn has set up a number of Working Groups and one of the Groups is on Industrial Planning for Exports.

(b) A copy of the order on the constitution of Working Group giving composition as well as terms of reference is enclosed. [*See* Appendix CXLVIII, Annexure No. 97]

(c) The Working Group is expected to submit its report by 31-12-1988.

Vigilance Commission

2145. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vigilance Commission has since requested Government to give it statutory status; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.